

DRAFT
CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH

MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
November 8, 2005
6:00 p.m.

CONTENTS

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) of the City of Manhattan Beach, California met on Tuesday, November 8, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber Conference Room.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Greco (Chair), Shelby Phillips (Vice-chair),
Candy Duncan
Susannah Rosenthal
Richard Gill, Director Parks and Recreation Department
Juanita Purner, Cultural Arts Manager

Absent: Francey Seckinger

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the October 11, 2005 Commission Meeting are approved as presented.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No audience participation

V. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. 05/0412.3 The Strand Alcove/ Bench Program.

1. Commissioner Duncan suggests a go around from all the commissioners present for general reviews, comments, concerns, and impressions on the 10 entries received in response to the RFP.
2. Commissioner Shelby Phillips' comments are as follows:
"I'm pleased that there were at least 10 entries." Commissioner Phillips noticed some entries were bench only. She threw out a suggestion of a

paring of artists that would work on the entire alcove together as a possibility to resolve entries that were bench only.

Three entries stood out: “The Underwater Forest” # 4, “The Comfy Couch & Carpet” #5, and “Sea Anemones among the Reeds” #7. Shelby liked the concept of the privacy and enclosure described in the proposal. However there are some major safety concerns with the steel reeds.

“The Elder Tree” #1- “is very unique,” and the “Swirls” #2 were also of interest but may not meet code requirements for height and safety, etc.

Shelby was disappointed that there were not more mosaics in the design but she was excited to see such creativity in the entries received.

3. Commissioner Susannah Rosenthal’s comments included the following: She was surprised that there were not more entries, felt the number of entries received did not provide enough designs to choose from.

In general, she liked that there was such a range conceptually in the submissions. People were really trying different things and some were more successful than others. In some of the designs, “I found myself wanting to change something.”

“Review of the entries brought up a lot of questions for me; I started to think about safety and aesthetic issues. I imagined the great diversity aesthetically in the ten entries presented so far, and how this would impact 40 alcoves on the Strand and is that going to be a major plus, or just chaotic.”

“The model alcove/bench that is selected will be presented to council for approval has to embody the promise of the whole project. It has got to be one that is outstanding in some incredible way. The first alcove will set the stage for the rest. This is something that I think is very important.”

4. Commissioner Candy Duncan’s comments are as follows:

She expressed disappointment that there were not more mosaic designs like the examples seen from similar public art projects in cities like Chicago.

“My first concern was safety while looking at some of the entries, such as design elements sticking out and how comfortable are the armrests, etc.”

“Metal benches are going to be hot in the summer and cold in the winter. Materials like acrylic, fiber glass, and concrete may provide more comfortable seating surfaces.”

- “The “Reeds” #7 looked uncomfortable and unsafe.”
- “The “Comfy Couch and Ottoman #5 was really pretty and colorful but I have concerns with the sandblasting idea.”
- “Entry #8 might not be comfortable.”
- “The entry “A Dessert Tortoise”#10 concept had nothing to do with the beach and looked uncomfortable.”

5. Commissioner Greco’s comments included:

During earlier conversation Commissioner Greco interjected a concern about the first RFP’s distribution. She expressed a desire that since there will be an extension to the deadline, the RFP’s should be sent to all the Grad Schools, and AIA local chapters.

Her question posed to Richard and Juanita: “I don’t think in 9/11 we had any input at all. Everything was accepted exactly as is. All of us seemed to have wanted to “tweak” some of these (entries). Are we allowed to give any input?”

The following issues/ points/ questions/ concerns were brought up during the conversation and some were not completely resolved.

- Artists who submitted during the original deadline will be notified of the deadline extension and given the opportunity to resubmit.
- A special meeting needs to be set up, so the commission can set a procedure process regarding negotiations with the final artist selection.
- Any input on design or concept from the Commission is limited to ADA compliant, safety issues, feasibility, budget etc.
- If an artist submits an incomplete application (bench only, no curb design) should an opportunity be given to those artists to complete their designs with all the specifications that were listed in the RFP?
- Negotiations with the finalist can occur if a project is selected and it is deemed not worth the \$50,000 budget.
- A concern was expressed that the Strand Alcove/Bench project is going to be a long process and its completion will take a long time. All 40 designs will have to be reviewed and scrutinized for safety, continuity etc. and presented to the City Council for approval --all of which will take considerable time.

- Public meetings will be held so people from the community can comment on final selections as they come in.
- The project's deadline has been extended to February 15, 2006

B. City Entryway modernization:

1. The city is looking to revamp four of the six entry point signs. The signs that are on the north and south side of Sepulveda will remain unchanged because of Cal Trans signage restrictions.
2. Juanita explained that graphic artist Mike DeSanto will complete a few different design samples and the Cultural Arts Commission will make a selection, which then will go before council. The RFP process will not be used for this project.
3. Aviation and Manhattan Beach Blvd sign was installed with a temporary art piece in the 1960's that has not been removed since. The art piece had some vandalism and has not been restored.
 - The 4 signs to be replaced do not have to conform to the existing two signs on Sepulveda.
 - Council is looking for something not too artsy, but a design that looks good.
 - The El Porto section of Manhattan Beach really has no place at the 45th street entry to put a sign.
 - Lighting is allowed
 - Council prefers signs that combine "off the shelf" elements with some stylish embellishment.
 - Perhaps at certain entries the signs could identify with the area, i.e. El Porto.
 - The CAC will submit cost estimates and not be concerned with the budget process.
 - Size constraints will be taken into consideration for each site.
 - Concept and designs need to come back to Council by March.

C. Public Art Advisory Response

1. Two applications were received so far (Alison Wright and Dean Nota).

VII. REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

A. Shelby Phillips' proposal for establishing theater/performance space in the city has been added to the strategic plan and will be reviewed in the Spring 2006. Shelby also offered kudos to Ken Johnson, Performing Arts Supervisor, for his assistance and proactive help with her class.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7: 45 p.m.